

nest on a low tree in the middle of the capital. The nest and eggs were in every respect similar to those of the Common or Hooded Crows.

31. *HARTLAUBIA MADAGASCARIENSIS* (Linn.); Hartl. p. 52.

Seen from the coast all the way to the great forest of Alana-masaotra. Legs and beak black, iris dark brown.

"I met with these birds frequently on my way to Foule Point. They have the same pugnacious disposition as the East Indian *Pycnonoti*; for on leaving Foule Point in November, I came upon two in the jungle so fiercely engaged in fight that I very nearly made prisoners of both with my hands."—S. R.

32. *FOUDIA MADAGASCARIENSIS* (Linn.); Hartl. p. 55.

"Near Beforona, on the 9th of October, I saw some of these birds."—E. N.

33. *FOUDIA ERYTHROCEPHALA* (Gmelin); Hartl. p. 55.

"In the forest near Ankaranickra, on the 14th of October, I saw one of this species."—E. N.

34. *SPERMESTES NANA* (Pucheran); Hartl. p. 56.

We saw this bird pretty frequently about Ranomafana and Ampasimbé.

35. *MIRAFRA HOVA*, Hartl. p. 57.

From the coast up to the capital, wherever we crossed open country, a species of Lark was very common. The only specimen preserved was killed at Ampasimbé, on the great plain near the Mangourou. It was very common—as common as *Alauda arvensis* is in the eastern counties at home. They appeared to us to be breeding, but we searched in vain for a nest. The song is very poor; their flight while singing is very like that of *A. arborea*.

[To be continued.]

XXIX.—Notice of the supposed occurrence of the American Kill-deer Plover (*Ægialites vociferus*) in Great Britain. By P. L. SCLATER.

THE list of American stragglers occasionally met with in the British Islands is now so large, that little surprise need be manifested at its still further increase. But the prospect of any

additional species being occasionally to be met with within the limited sphere of observation of the resident Englishman is always agreeable, and I have no hesitation in deciding that all such instances, whether founded on very clear and decisive evidence or not, are well worthy of record in 'The Ibis,' as a guide to future observers in the same field. I have, therefore, much pleasure in making known the following facts, which lead me to believe it probable that the American Kill-deer Plover (*Ægialites vociferus*) has been met with on one occasion in this country.

About a month ago, Mr. John R. Wise (a gentleman resident in the south of Hampshire, and now engaged in preparing for the press a work on the History and Scenery of the New Forest, which will be published by Messrs. Smith and Elder about the end of the year) brought to me a stuffed specimen of a Plover, enclosed in a glass case. This, he stated, belonged to a friend of his (a Mr. Tanner), and had been undoubtedly killed in the New Forest. I had no difficulty in recognizing the bird at the first glance as being the *Ægialites vociferus* of North America; for that species is so well marked and so different in appearance from its allies of the same genus as to be very readily identified. In reply to my request for further information as to its authenticity as a British specimen, Mr. Wise kindly favoured me, shortly afterwards, with the following particulars:—

“Since I wrote to you, I have seen Mr. Tanner, and communicated with the bird-stuffer who prepared the bird. The facts are these:—The bird was shot by a keeper to the Salmon Association of Christchurch, of the name of Douding (now dead), in a potato-field near Knapp Mill, on the River Avon, about a mile from Christchurch.

“The bird was taken in the flesh to Mr. William Hart, a bird-stuffer in Christchurch, from whom my friend Mr. Tanner bought it.

“The date was some time in April 1857, but I cannot find out the day of the month.”

It may be observed that some corroborative evidence of the bird having been brought to Mr. Hart “in the flesh” would still be desirable; but I see nothing very improbable in the alleged facts, and Mr. Wise seems confident as to their authenticity.

The Kill-deer Plover has a wide range in America, extending from the Arctic Regions to Mexico (Sallé, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 206) and Guatemala (Ibis, 1859, p. 228). It is also occasionally met with in the Bermudas during winter. The only wonder, I think, is that it has not been before noted in England*, where so many other American species of less extended range and more limited powers of flight have already occurred.

XXX.—Note on the Birds of Palestine.

By the Rev. H. B. TRISTRAM.

I HAVE recently had an opportunity of examining two collections of birds from Palestine, one of which, made by the Rev. Ridley H. Herschell, is of considerable extent. As these collections contain upwards of twenty species which escaped my observation when in that country, it may not be out of place to enumerate them, though the additions are of small interest, except as showing the very close affinity which exists between the avifauna of

* There are 49 species of the Suborder *Grallæ* enumerated in Baird's 'North American Birds,' one of which (*Hæmatopus ater*) is very doubtful, and one (*Philomachus pugnax*) is a European straggler in America. Out of these 9 are common to Europe and North America: namely,

<i>Squatarola helvetica.</i>	<i>Tringa maritima.</i>
<i>Streptopelia interpres.</i>	„ <i>subarcuata.</i>
<i>Phalaropus hyperboreus.</i>	„ <i>alpina.</i>
„ <i>fulicarius.</i>	<i>Calidris arenaria.</i>
<i>Tringa canutus.</i>	

Out of the 38 remaining species 11 have been already registered as accidental visitors to Europe: namely,

<i>Charadrius virginicus.</i>	<i>Gambetta flavipes.</i>
<i>Macrorhamphus griseus.</i>	<i>Tringoides macularius.</i>
<i>a. Actodromas maculata.</i>	<i>Actiturus bartramius.</i>
<i>b. „ wilsoni.</i>	<i>Tringites rufescens.</i>
<i>c. „ bonapartii.</i>	<i>Numenius borealis.</i>
<i>Symphemia semipalmata.</i>	

a. = *Tringa pectoralis*, Auctt. Britt.

b. = *Tringa pusilla*, Auctt. Britt.

c. = *Tringa schinzii*, Auctt. Britt.

so that the occurrence of others of this wandering suborder may be reasonably expected.